

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful in giving names and dates, to have all letters or figures plain and distinct.

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

MILTIADIS TURNS ASTRONOMER.

Professor Miltiades Peterkin Paul, F. R. S., L. L. D., X. Y. Z., and all. With his grandfather's spectacles set on his nose, And a long piece of stove-pipe (that blackened his clothes In the most shocking manner) with left arm hugged tight, While an old wooden saw-horse was clasped in his right. In fact, in complete scientific array, Might have been seen, one afternoon, making his way With all possible speed toward a small knoll that stood In the South Meadow Lot, near the edge of the wood.

At length, with his traps having climbed to the summit Of the knoll (and the view was most excellent from it) He planted his saw-horse with scrupulous care, And, laying the stove-pipe across it, cried "There! There's a telescope, fine as you ever set eyes on!" I can just sit here with it and sweep the horizon. Let me see. Yes; I guess now it points about right. We will ascertain what constellation's in sight."

So, the telescope pointing straight up at the sky, He seated himself on the ground, with his eye Applied to the opening. Then, all in a minute, Ere he really had gotten a good look within it, He leaped to his feet with a cry of dismay. "Where!" he murmured, with awe, "that was one, I should say! Why, it seemed to be all legs, so far as I could see, And a terrible monster, too. What could it be?"

In a moment, recovering his caution a bit, Our hero, with caution, took another look at it. Yes, there it was, still in the sky there—a thing So monstrous it filled up completely the ring That bounded his vision—so horrid and vast That Professor Miltiades stood quite aghast. Though still he gazed on in a strange fascination, Never taking his eyes from the queer constellation.

Just then his big brother came into the lot, So Miltiades called him at once to the spot. "I wish, John Henry Jack, you would come here," cried he. "And tell me what this constellation can be. I am sure 'tis a most unaccountable sight, With its great ugly legs, and its skin black as night. That 'it' is Cancer, the Crab, I have scarcely a doubt, Though I do not quite see what the creature's about."

So John Henry Jack, wondering what it could be, That his brother had found in the sky, came to see; But the moment the object encountered his gaze, he Jumped up and stood laughing as if he were crazy. "Well!" cried he, "Herr Professor, I really must say You appear to be very far-sighted to-day. Why, your cluster of stars of such unwonted stripe Is—a big spider, spinning its web in the pipe!" —John Brownjohn, in *Wide Awake*.

THE LAND OF SHORT MEMORIES.

George meant to be a good boy, but he very seldom did any thing that he was told to do. He nearly always forgot it. Once, when his sister May was very sick, he was sent after some medicine for her. So he started in a great hurry; but he met Fred Smith with his dog, and Fred coaxed him to go and coast "just once" down the long Red Hill. Then he forgot all about May and the medicine until it was quite dark, and he felt so sorry and ashamed that he ran home and crept up the back stairway to bed, hungry and lonely and cold.

By and by, he fell asleep, and when he awoke he was in a new and strange place. He found himself in a house which was only partially covered by a roof, and the rain came through the uncovered part and dropped upon his bed. George sat up and looked around him. There was a fire-place in the room, besides some wood and kindlings, which the poor, shivering little fellow eyed very wistfully, thinking that some one might perhaps light a fire. It was very chilly, and his teeth chattered. There was a wee old woman sitting in the chimney-corner, and George spoke to her.

"What is it you want, Jimmie?" she said. "Will you please tell me what your name is, and where I am?" he asked. "My name—well, really, I forget it just now," she replied, "but you are in the Land of Short Memories—that, I am aware of!"

"But what shall I call you?" asked George.

"Oh, call me Mite! That will do as well as any other name till you forget it, Henry."

"My name is George."

"Is it? Well, I will try and recollect it. 'Tom,' you said it was, didn't you?"

"No, I didn't!" retorted George, getting cross with the old lady, for he thought she meant to tease him.

"There, there!" cried Mite; "the doctors said you must not get excited, or else that you must, I forget which. Do you want any thing to eat?"

"Yes, I should like to have some gruel."

"I will make you some," said she. "I have a nice fire here, or I should have, only that I seem to have forgotten to light the kindlings."

While she was bustling around, busy with the gruel, Georgie lay quite still, looking out where there was no roof, at the blue sky, which he could now see, for it had ceased raining.

"Why don't you have the roof cover the whole of your house?" asked Georgie of the old lady.

"The rest of the roof is somewhere around," said she. "I guess the workmen forgot to put it on. Now, here is your nice gruel already for you."

"Why, it is cold!" exclaimed the disappointed Georgie, who was quite hungry.

"Sure enough, I forgot to boil it!" said the old lady.

"And I don't see any thing in the bowl but water!"

"Dear me! Dear me!" said Mite. "I must have forgotten to put any meal in it!"

Georgie now began to cry.

"Don't cry, don't cry, Johnny," said Mite. "I will boil a chicken for you by and by, if I don't forget it. Here are the doctors coming to see you now, and you must sit up and talk with them."

Pretty soon two doctors came in, and one of them asked Mite if she felt better to-day.

"Yes, I think I do," said she.

"Did you take the medicine I ordered for you?" asked the other doctor.

"I suppose I did, but I don't remember," answered Mite. Then the doctors felt her pulse, looked at her tongue, and said she must take some salts, and went away. When they had gone, Georgie began to cry more loudly than before.

"What is the matter, Fred?" demanded Mite.

"My name is not Fred, I tell you!" screamed Georgie.

"Never mind; I always forget your name, so I call you by any thing I can think of. But tell me what makes you cry?"

"Why, I am sick, and I thought the doctors were coming to see me!"

"Bless my stars!" exclaimed the old lady, "sure enough, I was not the one that was sick! I meant to have remembered and told the doctors that they came to see you; but I forgot it when they looked at my tongue. I'll run after them and call them back!"

So away went Mite, and was gone ever so long. When she came back, she said she could not find the doctors anywhere, and every body had forgotten where they lived, so that no one could go after them. "I'm sorry," said Mite, "but it can't be helped, for you know we live in the Land of Short Memories."

Then Georgie cried still more bitterly.

"I wish I could go home," he said. "I am sure I shall die here! I wish I could go home! I would never forget to mind mother again!"

As soon as he had said this, he heard a familiar voice pleading, "Ma, mayn't I go for Georgie's medicine? I won't forget to bring it!"

Georgie turned slowly in his little bed and saw his sister May. Next, his eyes rested on his mother, who looked very pale and thin, but sweet and smiling.

"Oh, ma, have I come back to you?" he cried, with a sigh.

"We hope so, Georgie," replied his mother. "You have had a bad fever, just like May's, and been very sick, but you soon will get well now."

"Did May die, because I forgot her medicine?"

"No. Father came home and got it for her; she is well now, and has helped take care of you."

"Mother," said Georgie, very earnestly, "I am going to try not to forget things any more!"

And Georgie did try. When he became well, and was sent upon errands, he always thought of Mite, and the gruel, and the doctors, and the Land of Short Memories, where he went in his fever-dreams, and he was cured of the very bad habit of forgetting his duty.—*S. S. Coll, in St. Nicholas*.

The Queen's Grenadiers.

If you think the Grenadier guards are great big six-footers, ferocious in appearance and calculated to make little boys fall on their knees and howl with terror, you are more mistaken than you ever were about any thing. They are ordinary-sized young men; nearly all have light hair, blue eyes and very rosy cheeks. Any of them who can raise a little mustache are allowed, under the British Constitution, to do so, but all are obliged to shave every day, and I believe twice on Sundays. They are also obliged by the law to carry, when walking about the streets, either with or without their sweethearts, a very short cane; to wear on the side, not the top of their heads, a round cap four inches in diameter, and to have their hair brushed in a peculiar way, such as we used to call "cow-lick." When on duty they wear an enormous bear-skin cap-always rather on the back of their heads, which gives them a silly look, as you can imagine. So far from being ferocious, they are a remarkably amiable, good-natured set of young men, and for all the world make you think of a lot of good young curates dressed up in bottled red coats. They march and drill almost as well as some of our volunteer regiments, and their music as a general thing is no worse than many of the country bands that visited Philadelphia during the Centennial.—*London Cor. Philadelphia Bulletin*.

DURING the excessive cold many Paris theaters closed their doors

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

State Auditor's Annual Report.

On the 12th State Auditor Thomas Holladay completed his annual report and submitted it to the Governor. Below will be found all its essential points:

Hon. John S. Phelps, Governor of Missouri:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst., relative to the annual report of the transactions of this office for the year ending December 31, 1879. It is gratifying to say the State's finances are in a much healthier condition than was anticipated, the receipts into the Treasury far exceeding the most sanguine expectations, while the current expenses will be in the future, by the retrenchments inaugurated by the Legislature, diminished. The year 1879 was the most prosperous since 1873.

In my report rendered to you April 11, 1879, for the quarter ending March 31, 1879, I called attention to the fact that the assessment of the general property as returned by the assessors and estimated by the State Board had depreciated \$55,573,317, as compared with 1878, estimating the Counties of Boone, Miller and New Madrid, their returns not then being in at their assessment for the previous year, and that this would cause a reduction in the State revenues from that cause of \$22,884,860 per annum, or \$44,769,720 for the two years.

In a subsequent report, made to the Legislature, I rendered a like estimate, basing my conclusions on the decreased amount of taxes for 1879 that would be charged against the Collectors. When the tax-books were made up, after consideration of the State Board of County Boards of Equalization, the actual result was as follows:

Amount of State revenue and State interest fund taxes charged on tax books for 1879.....\$2,360,215 70
Amount charged for 1878.....2,112,189 96

Decrease in 1879 as compared with 1878.....\$248,025 74

The assessment of real estate was made once in two years, except in St. Louis, commencing the 1st day of August, 1872. It was supposed that the assessment for 1879 would be the same as for 1878, the revised revenue law, consequently the assessment of the landed property for the taxes of 1879 would be the same as for 1878, owing to the then continued depression of all industries, there would be no material enhancement in the amount of taxes, and the total receipts from revenue sources in 1878 were \$2,732,220 06, and in 1879 \$2,888,888 32, being a falling off of \$145,667 74. When the said \$248,025 74 of a reduction in the amount of taxes on the tax books of 1879 is taken into consideration, it becomes evident that there has been a larger per cent of current taxes collected in proportion to amounts charged to the Collectors than usual. Besides, there has been an increase in the collections of back and delinquent taxes, stimulated by the decisions of the Supreme Court. The following exhibits the condition of the amounts of tax charged:

FOR 1878.
State revenue and interest on current tax books.....\$2,360,215 70
On railroads.....\$226,021 570
On companies.....10,448,006

FOR 1879.
State revenue and interest on current tax books.....\$2,112,189 96
On railroads.....11,770,804

Reduction on tax books, \$248,025 74, and an increase on railroads, bridges, and telegraph companies of \$7,221 08.

CRIMINAL COSTS.
Costs in criminal cases which accrued in 1878 amounted to \$20,722 97. Warrants to the amount of \$168,832 25 were issued, and the deficiency of \$14,014 62 came over; \$249,889 82 of warrants were issued last year, embracing the said \$14,014 62, and extending this last amount, it will be found that the costs were \$208,836 20, making an excess over 1878 of \$7,113 23.

On your special recommendation the Legislature provided in the revision that board bills in felony cases should be paid by the counties. At the same time, the per diem was reduced from 8 to 5 cents, and the per diem was also reduced as well as certain fees of the clerks. Grand juries were reduced to 30. All of these will decrease the demands against the State Treasury thousands of dollars annually.

The following exhibits the condition of the revenue fund, to-wit:

REVENUE FUND.
Dr.
By balance Jan. 1, 1879.....\$120,224 98
By transfer from Library fund.....1,555 30

Cr.
By proceeds of sale of \$250,000 of renewal rev. bonds in June.....266,875 00
By receipts from revenue sources.....1,443,003 49

To transfer to school money, balance of receipts for school year ending March 31.....\$28,555 18
To warrants to pay interest on State bonds.....\$141,583 19
To balance.....79,220 40

Total.....\$1,822,058 77

By balance Jan. 1, 1880.....\$79,220 40
On June 1, 1879, the revenue fund was \$250,000 of 6 per cent revenue bonds, running for two years, but owing to the inability of the revenue fund to meet their maturity, the bonds were continued two years longer. If the balance of \$79,220 40 is deducted from the \$250,000, the revenue fund was \$170,779 60 at that account. It will be observed that the balance in this fund, after paying all outstanding warrants, was \$170,779 60 on January 1, 1879. The revenue fund was over-drawn, that is, the warrants were in excess of the receipts, as follows:

STATE INTEREST FUND.
Dr.
By balance Jan. 1, 1879.....\$150,000 00
By receipts.....1,340,284 84

Cr.
To transfer to school money, balance of receipts for school year ending March 31.....\$28,555 18
To warrants to pay interest on State bonds.....\$141,583 19
To balance.....79,220 40

Total.....\$1,360,324 63

By balance Jan. 1, 1880.....\$79,220 40
This fund owes the sinking fund \$249,000, which will leave a balance of \$129,960 33, against \$150,000 of bonds, being a deficiency of \$20,039 67. I thought the sum of \$249,000 should have been transferred to the sinking fund for the purpose of closing up the account, although it could not be applied to the reduction of the bonded debt during the year, as a reference to section 31 of the approved May 18, 1879, page 255, will disclose. That section provides, whenever there is sufficient money in the sinking fund to purchase or to pay on the bonds, the Fund Commissioners shall call in for payment a like amount of the option bonds, known as five-twenty-fives, or on the same the same in State bonds, but in no case shall they purchase or redeem any bonds at a higher rate than their face value. As the option on the five-twenty-fives does not begin to run until the 1st of next May, none of them could be called in and paid at maturity, and the same could be purchased at their face value.

[Following the above is a list of balances in the several funds—after paying all outstanding debts—heretofore published.]

A requisition on the Governor of New York was issued by Gov. Phelps recently for the rendition of one of the gang who, on the St. Louis bridge, sold the editor of a Missouri Greenback paper a gold brick which turned out to be common clay.

The owner of a Boston arboretum, in order to prove that the alantus tree is not really worthless, has put on exhibition a table made of the wood. It is a pale straw color, with dark lines dividing the annual layers of growth, and takes on a beautiful polish.

Miss Jennie Armstrong is a young lady of Ogdensburg, N. Y., who is whistling herself to fame and possibly fortune. She has the most artistic pucker probably of any girl known. Her gift is described as simply wonderful.

AGRICULTURAL.

KEEP THE STABLE CLEAN.—We need to impress upon all dairymen some idea of what is necessarily classed under the head of cleanliness in the dairy. The stable must be clean, free from manure and all offensive odorous matter, and enough sawdust, dry dirt, plaster, or other effective absorbent and deodorizer used to remove all disagreeable smells.

The stable must be well ventilated, and the cows have plenty of fresh pure air to breathe. This must be, in summer or winter, as foul air, as well as foul food, will taint the whole system of the cow and impart its odor and flavor to the milk. Air, food and drink must be pure, and the surroundings clean and sweet. If this is not the condition under which the cow is kept, then there is not sufficient cleanliness in this part of the dairy. Very seldom do we see a stable that even approximates this degree of cleanliness. Yet this is indispensable, as surely as the milk is made of, and flavored by, what the cow eats, drinks, and inhales, and as milk absorbs the odors of the atmosphere with which it comes in contact.—*Exchange*.

VEGETABLE FOOD FOR POULTRY.—Any of the roots—as potatoes, rutabagas, turnips, carrots, etc., when boiled and mixed with corn and rye meal—make an excellent and economical daily food for poultry. In this form fowls are fond of the diet, and it works very kindly with them. Most experienced breeders think it necessary to dole out dry grain only to their chickens, generally whole corn, from year's end to year's end; and where large numbers of fowls are kept it is often considered too troublesome to supply cooked vegetables for fowl stock, the dry-feed system being the handiest, of course. But there is nothing that is so great a help to the poultryer, first and last, either in the cost or through the benefits to be derived to the stock, as a regular feed every day of cooked vegetables. We have tried this practically for years, and we have found it highly advantageous, as compared with any other method of feeding. There are other kinds of vegetables also which are quite as valuable as are the roots mentioned for use among poultry, in their season. The leaves of turnips or carrots, raw cabbages at any time of the year, green corn in the ear, etc., may be given to poultry freely, and these will all be relished. But if at least one-half of all the food given them be of some sort of vegetable and green, fowls will constantly be found in better thrift and finer condition than when fed in any other way.—*Poultry Yard*.

MARKETING POULTRY.—With all the improvements that have been made during the past twenty years in the shipment of live stock and dressed meats there has been very little progress in the methods of marketing poultry. The exceedingly low price which farmers often receive for fowls, the large expense attending marketing, and the bad condition of a large proportion of the poultry seen in most cities are all evidences that a change is necessary for the good of all parties. During a considerable portion of every winter dressed chickens sell for less in this market than dressed hogs or beef. The cost of marketing them, including packages, freight or expressage, and commissions, is three or four times that required for pork or beef. Dressed fowls are perishable articles which must be sold soon after they reach their destination or they are worthless. Indeed, many of them are of little value when they are received if they were forwarded in ordinary freight cars when the weather was quite warm. If the temperature is sufficiently cold to freeze them their market value is diminished. The appearance of dressed poultry is injured by keeping it under the most favorable circumstances, and its value as an article of food is very likely to be impaired. Experience shows that it is ordinarily best to ship beefs and hogs alive. Still dressed hogs and beef do not rank among perishable articles because they may be cured and packed if there is little demand for them in a fresh condition. There are greater advantages in shipping live fowls than live hogs and beefs. The former require as much care in dressing in order to meet the demands at the market as the latter. Much of the poultry that comes to market is dressed so poorly that it is sold for less than its real value. As much skill is required to dress poultry properly as to dress hogs and beefs. Fowls are chiefly brought to a class of customers who are fastidious. If they are not dressed in a manner to render them attractive they will not purchase them. For fowls to present their best appearance they should not be dressed more than one day before they are exposed for sale. The appearance of beef, pork, and mutton is not injured by their hanging several days in a suitable room. But fowls, especially turkeys and chickens, commence to look uninviting shortly after they are dressed. Many marketmen are so well aware of this that they do not ordinarily dress fowls till they are ordered by customers. It would be greatly to the advantage of producers, shippers, dealers, and consumers if this practice of sending fowls to market alive became general. To accomplish the desired end, however, it will be necessary to have cars constructed expressly for the purpose of carrying

fowls, as they now are for carrying various kinds of live stock. The poultry-cars should be provided with five or six floors, so that the birds could stand upright without discomfort. Ample provisions should be made for ventilation, and means should be provided for supplying food and water. With cars built expressly for the purpose, the expense of shipping a given weight of fowls would be but little greater than for an equal weight of hogs, sheep or beefs. On arriving at the point of destination, the birds should be let out in spacious yards, a part of which should be covered. In these yards they should be allowed to recuperate before they are killed. This would greatly improve their appearance and condition, and add much to their market value. Fowls shipped a hundred miles or more are in no condition for the market when they arrive at it. They should be allowed rest to recover from the fatigue of the journey, and food that will cause them to fatten rapidly. At present no farm product is marketed with so poor advantage to all the parties interested as poultry.—*Chicago Times*.

Valuable Rubbish.

Turning from nature's process to those of man, we find that he is doing his best, however clumsily, to follow the thrifty example that she sets him. For many and many a year no doubt the pine tree shed its pointed, needle-like leaves in the Silesian forests, and there they were left to decay and turn into mold at their leisure, until M. Panne-witz started a manufactory for converting them into forest-wool, which, besides being efficacious in cases of rheumatism when applied in its woolly state, can also be curled, felted or woven. Mixed with cotton, it has even been used for blankets and wearing apparel. The history of gas-making best shows the value of "rubbish." To begin with: The coal which yields most gas is what is termed "cannel" coal, and is now worth from 25 to 30 shillings a ton or more; where fifty years ago, before the introduction of gas, it was looked upon as almost worthless.

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